

SERIES: 1999-2000
CIRCULAR LETTER: C-8

TO: Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

DATE: October 25, 1999

SUBJECT: Developing Safe Learning Environments

From the initial report on "Youth Violence Prevention and School Safety", the Governor's requested community-wide planning process has generated much interest on the part of many communities and school districts. However, not all communities have notified us of their participation in a planning process. Therefore, I am writing to encourage those of you who have not yet participated in a recent community-wide process to initiate a conversation among a broadly represented group and discuss how your community can better provide a safe environment for all youth.

In order to ensure that communities had appropriate time to convene a broadly represented group to discuss violence prevention and related school safety issues, in August we notified you of an extension of the date for submission of a brief report to November 1, 1999. I have attached the letter and a suggested report format for your information.

Please send Nancy Pugliese your report whenever it is ready, but understand we need to prepare a summary for the Governor in December.

If your community has not yet taken the opportunity to convene a forum, I strongly encourage you to do so, and whenever you complete your work send us a brief report. If your community has completed such a review process in the past few years, I request that you complete the brief report format and simply identify the date that the information was gathered and who participated in the community-wide process.

As educational leaders, we have a responsibility for ensuring that all students have a safe environment for learning. I will continue to encourage all communities to become involved in a local process of discussion and actions that result in connecting with more students.

We appreciate all that you have done to create safe learning environments, and we know that your students are better served because of your efforts.

TSS:fsm
Attachment